

COVID-19 Guidelines

Sacred Heart Faith Formation

2021-22

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) include the following statement in the COVID-19 guidelines for schools: “Students benefit from in-person learning, and safely returning to in-person instruction in the fall 2021 is a priority.” The clergy and staff at the Basilica believe that the same principle applies for in-person Faith Formation meetings as well. With that said, the health of all members of our parish community is a primary concern, and so it is important that we all commit to these guidelines for the upcoming Faith Formation year:

1 – Faith Formation classes meet from 11:15 am until 12:15 pm in the lower level (parish hall and atrium area) of the Basilica. Masks should be worn at all times during the full class time, regardless of age (children, youth, adults) and regardless of vaccination status (vaccinated, unvaccinated).

2 – Parents/guardians who wait at the Basilica for their children/youth during class time are strongly encouraged to wear masks during the full class time. (Please note: it is Basilica policy that masks are required for unvaccinated persons in all parish facilities.) On days when there are scheduled parent/guardian meetings (e.g., First Communion preparation), adults should wear masks during the full meeting time.

3 – Hand sanitizer is available in the lower level of the Basilica. Children, youth, and catechists are strongly encouraged to use hand sanitizer before and after Faith Formation classes.

4 – Social distancing of at least three feet should be maintained as much as possible in the lower level of the Basilica. Since this distance is not always possible to maintain during class time, it is particularly important to observe the other guidelines listed in this document.

5 – Classroom doors should be kept open during the Faith Formation classes. Therefore, please be attentive and try to refrain from any excessive noise in the atrium area that might disrupt the classes.

6 – No outside food and drink are allowed in the Faith Formation classrooms. If there is a personal need, please talk to Robert Rivers in advance and accommodations can be made. By restricting outside food and drink, we limit mask removal for active eating and drinking during class time.

7 – Your child/youth should not attend Faith Formation classes if he/she exhibits COVID symptoms the evening before or morning of class. COVID symptoms include but are not limited to fever, cough, and headache. While attendance and participation in classes are important – particularly during sacramental preparation years – the health of all members of our parish community is a primary concern. Arrangements can be made for any missed Faith Formation meetings.

8 – Classrooms and meeting spaces are cleaned and disinfected by Basilica staff before and after Faith Formation meetings (similar to the cleaning and disinfecting that regularly takes place in the Basilica itself). Disinfecting wipes are available for use during Faith Formation meetings, as needed.

9 – We strongly encourage (but do not require) all eligible children, youth, and adults who participate in Faith Formation to be vaccinated.

10 – In summary, these points should be kept in mind each Sunday:

A – All children, youth, and adults should be fully masked.

B – Social distancing of at least three feet should be maintained, as much as reasonably possible.

C – No outside food and drink are allowed in the Faith Formation classrooms.

D – Any child/youth who exhibits COVID-19 symptoms the evening before or morning of class should not attend Faith Formation that day.

E – Classroom doors should be left open during meeting time.

F – Classrooms and meeting spaces are cleaned and sanitized by Basilica staff before and after class.

11 – These COVID-19 guidelines are subject to change. Any changes will be communicated to Faith Formation families and catechists via email as soon as possible.

12 – Finally, let us continue to pray for the physical, spiritual, and social-emotional health of all in our parish community, and ask God for an end to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Online resources:

A – CDC Guidelines for Schools:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html>

B – CDC Resources for Families:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/groups/families-covid-19.html>

C – CDC COVID-19 Symptoms:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>

D – World Health Organization (WHO) COVID-19 Questions and Answers:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html>

E – Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) Vaccine Information:

<https://dph.georgia.gov/covid-vaccine>

F – Fulton County Department of Health Testing Sites:

<https://www.fultoncountyga.gov/covid-19/covid-testing-sites>

G – Archdiocese of Atlanta COVID-19 Resources:

<https://archatl.com/covid-19/>

Last updated 9.24.21 RR

Acknowledgment of Sacred Heart Faith Formation COVID-19 Guidelines

I acknowledge receipt of the COVID-19 Guidelines for Faith Formation at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart of Jesus for 2020-21 and that I have reviewed these guidelines with my family.

My family and I commit to follow these guidelines to the best of our ability throughout the Faith Formation year.

We also acknowledge that these guidelines are subject to change. Any changes will be communicated to Faith Formation families via email as soon as possible.

Printed Parent Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____

Please return to your child's catechist or to Robert Rivers.